



NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE A.C.T.  
BULLETIN

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## NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T. INC.

## "A NATIONAL PARK FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL"

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(489828)

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Monthly Meeting : Third Tuesday of the Month

July marks the end of another year for the A.C.T.N.P.A. Our annual meeting will be held that month, to which all members are urged to attend. The annual report will be read, the office bearers for the new year will be elected and items of association interest will be discussed. To complete the meeting members' slides, taken on association outings will be shown. Please select your best slides and hand to Jim Webb before the meeting commences.

Affiliation Fee for Visitors on Outings

The committee has discussed this question and it will be discussed at the June meeting. If agreed upon, an amendment will be made to the constitution at the annual general meeting.

Change of Meeting Place

Would members please note that the August meeting and all subsequent meetings will be held in the Griffin Centre as the cost of meeting in the Institute of Anatomy has become too great. Unfortunately our meeting room is not available for Tuesdays, so we will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The August-September bulletin will remind you of these changes and give directions for finding the meeting place.

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"Eyes or No Eyes"

You may have noticed, during the May school holidays, children in the Mall, busily colouring in pictures of Native Flowers. These pictures were printed from this association's "Eyes or No Eyes" articles, supplied each two months by Dr. Nancy Burbidge.

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Judith Wright's Visit

This visit was very successful and despite the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " of rain that fell on the Tuesday, about 200 people attended the meeting at the Playhouse to hear her speak. For those members who were unable to attend, the following extracts from her speech will be of interest:

"Conservation as an Emerging Concept"

Judith Wright commenced her talk by quoting an American poet who had witnessed the terrible disaster to Californian beaches and local wildlife when an off-shore oil well blew up.

"' Nature is much to wreck, but man can do it,  
(his last and greatest proof of power and will)  
and part of what we ruin, we shall rue it.'

Yes man can do it; and as many of us here know, he is doing it. Not only as a proof of his power and will, but as a by-result of his will to power. Even when he intends to make the world safer for his own kind and richer as a source of profit, he too often seems through ignorance and greed to end up by making the world more perilous for us all and poorer and uglier as a place to live in. Through ignorance. Because the whole of the human development over the past thousands of years has been directed to finding out how to extract, exploit and use the environment, very little thought or research has been given to the environment itself, to its complexities and dynamic balances, to the ways in which the biosphere has developed and maintained itself. Only when damage begins to become so obvious that it can't any longer be disregarded does this kind of thinking force itself on us. And it has to develop and widen its scope against the whole force and current of previous thinking; and to make itself known and felt as

opposition, not as continuation of previous thinking. This is to say that any new attitude to our environment, in the face of the deeply-rooted and old-established attitudes, is seen by people holding the old attitude as simply an attempt to hinder what we regard as 'progress', to put an obstacle in the way of what has so long been thought of as our triumphant race towards domination of the world. The advice of conservationists is heard, not as a counsel of wisdom, but as a voice of mean and carping criticism..... This is the kind of position that conservationists often find themselves forced into; and it's dangerous for both parties; especially for conservationists, who may find themselves trying to keep popular by compromising on issues they know are perilous, just because they can't muster conviction enough to oppose popular pressures..  
.....

The real difficulty, then, lies in the brief time we have to change human attitudes and get the action going. Historically, attitudes change extremely slowly, even where there is obvious need for change; you only have to think of attitudes towards war to realise this. How are we to convince the largely urban populations of today that their continuing well-being will depend on the well-being of the biosphere - the country and marine environments they so seldom see and know so little about? To preach successfully the need for what a Unesco contributor has called 'the joining of man and nature in a non-repressive and creative functioning order' will certainly need a massive alteration in, among other things, the direction of our present education and our present habits of thought. We must, in effect, cease to be thoughtless predators and become informed managers of a world now given over entirely to our hands. We must regenerate ourselves if we are to regenerate the earth.

I am certain that such deeply-rooted and genetically confirmed attitudes can't and won't be altered solely by rational argument and threats of what will happen to us in some dimly-envisaged future. Our feelings and emotions must be engaged, and engaged on a large scale. Whether scientists like it or not, it is feeling that sways public opinion, far more than reason, and it is feeling that spurs us to protest and act. Conservationists, with the world's most urgent battle on their hands, must begin to enlist not only rational recognition of the problem, but human concern, distress and love.....

I think, that the public can be a most important factor in conservation decisions, and it certainly proves that we can't leave action in such matters to Governments alone. Where we are sure we have an important issue on our hands, conservationists must do the best they can to present the case as strongly as possible, and not avoid appeals to public feeling.

This isn't demagoguery, it's plain common sense. Most National Parks, for instance, at least at the beginning, have been made on what are basically, grounds of feeling, and generally the first moves have come from laymen - people moved by feelings of concern. Most laws that protect nature from exploitation have originated from public pressures of this kind. Scientific arguments and presentation of the case are important, but they alone will not get the message across to Governments and Governments need very strong messages. For the whole concept of conservation, as I said, is only emerging, and it faces plenty of overt opposition and a whole history of inbuilt feeling against it, as well as practically all the immediate dollars arguments."

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EYES OR NO EYES NO. 32

Australian Blackthorn (Bursaria spinosa) is a common shrub of our woodland and dry forest areas. It blooms in late summer and sometimes a few flowers can be seen even during the early winter months. The creamy white flowers have a spicy-honey scent but this is more attractive to the beetles which pollinate them than it is to human noses.



The brown seed capsules become dry and rattle when the branches are shaken. Apart from these rattling sounds the bushes are easily recognised by the sharp spines along the branches. These spines are referred to in the Latin name "spinosa".

If you look closely you will find that each spine is really a very short branch because each has one or two small leaves near the base and each develops in the axil of a leaf on the main stem.

N.T.B.

OUTINGSJune

Date : 29th June, 1969  
 Place : Corin Dam area  
 Leader : Mr. Keith Green (Phone 489223)  
 Meeting Place: Junction of Corin Dam Road and Tidbinbilla  
 Road at 10.30 a.m.  
 Feature : A short walk through the bush with the hope  
 of hearing and seeing lyrebirds. Carry a  
 packed lunch.

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July

Date : 27th July, 1969  
 Place : The Botanic Gardens and Lakeside  
 Leader : Mrs. Pat Hammond  
 Meeting Place: The car park beside the gardens at 10 a.m.  
 Feature : A tour of the Botanic Gardens which only  
 contain native Australian plants. Lunch  
 at the Black Mountain Peninsular picnic  
 site. (If roadwork in progress we may  
 have to lunch elsewhere.)

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Membership

The association welcomes the following new members:

Miss P. Ayr; Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Carson; Miss J. Kriesel;  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. Oakman; Mr. and Mrs. Ridgway; Mr. and  
 Mrs. N. Semple; Miss C. Westwood.

Renewals : Mrs. M. Dodds; Mr. N. Hall.

8.

Meeting

June

Date : 17th June at 8.00 p.m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy  
Feature : "Man and Environment" - a talk by  
Dr. Stephen Boyden, who is a  
professional fellow at the A.N.U.  
in the study of urban biology

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July

Date : 15th July at 8.00 p.m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy  
Feature : Annual General Meeting of the Association.  
Annual Reports and election of office  
bearers. The showing of members' slides,  
taken on outing during the past year.  
Please hand slides to Jim Webb before the  
meeting.

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Subscriptions for 1969-1970 will fall due at the Annual Meeting.

\$3 for single membership

\$5 for family membership

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